

marginal plates, actinal intermediate armature, and especially the armature of the adambulacral plates, is very similar to that of *Gephyreaster*. Dr. Kœhler had much the difficulty in placing *Priamaster* in the system that I encountered in dealing with *Gephyreaster*. Both are related to *Radiaster*, Perrier (olim *Mimaster*, Sladen), and also, I think, more remotely to *Pseudarchaster*. Dr. Kœhler proposes a new family, "Priamastéridées." Professor Verrill has recently made *Mimaster*, Sladen (i. e., *Radiaster*, Perrier), the type of a family, the Mimasteridæ (=Radiasteridæ, Fisher). Whether *Gephyreaster* and *Priamaster* belong here or in a separate family, Priamasteridæ, I do not now feel at all certain. But, as something of a compromise, I would suggest placing them in a special subfamily, Priamasterinæ, under the Radiasteridæ.

XV.—*A new Genus and Subgenus of East-Indian Sea-Stars* \*.

By WALTER K. FISHER, Stanford University, California.

THE following new genus is based upon a curious *Asterina*-like species from 206 fathoms, Buton Strait, Celebes, which will be figured, along with the other form herein described, in a report on the Asteroidea taken by the U.S. Fisheries steamer 'Albatross' in the Philippines, Celebes, and the Moluccas during her cruise of 1907-1910.

PARANEPANTHIA, gen. nov.

*Characters*.—Similar to *Asterina* in form, but with the adambulacral armature of *Nepanthia*; actinal intermediate plates in transverse series, and bearing a tuft of spinelets which becomes compressed and pectinate towards the margin of disk; bases of these spinelets webbed; abactinal plates imbricated, divided into two areas. On centre of disk and along a radial band they are rather crescentic, with a few small plates intermingled (usually placed adrad to the hollow of the crescent), while between this area and the ambitus the plates lack the crescentic form and are arranged in transverse series. Superficially the plates resemble low parapaxillæ, as they bear truncate groups of slender spinelets.

\* Published with permission of the Commissioner of Fisheries.

Type of genus, *Nepanthia platydisca*, Fisher, Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. vol. xlvi. p. 214, Sept. 30, 1913.

This genus is distinguished from *Asterina*, in the wider sense, by the sharp differentiation of the plates of the centre of disk and the radial area from those of the lateral portion of the abactinal surface, by having an adambulacral armature of the *Nepanthia* type, though less extreme than that of *maculata*, and by the arrangement of the actinal intermediate plates, which are not in chevrons, in the ordinary sense, but form transverse series, separated by shallow grooves, proceeding from the adambulacrals to the ambitus. The first few series do not reach the ambitus, but end rather irregularly on the inner half of the interradial line.

*Paranepanthia* probably includes *Nepanthia brachiata*, Koehler, a six-rayed species from the Andaman Islands.

The type of the following subgenus departs sufficiently from the type of its genus to warrant separation:—

GLYPHODISCUS, subgen. nov.

*Characters*.—Differing from *Iconaster*, Sladen, s. s., in having conspicuously elevated and rough superomarginal plates; a complete series of peripheral granules on the abactinal plates, which, moreover, are perfectly smooth, lacking the tiny blister-like bosses of *Iconaster*; a less compact adambulacral armature.

Type, *Iconaster perierctus*, Fisher ("Four new Genera and Fifty-eight new Species of Starfishes from the Philippine Islands, Celebes, and the Moluccas," Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xliii. p. 642, Feb. 5, 1913. Tawi Tawi Group, 97 fathoms).

XVI.—*Remarks on the Midwife Toad (Alytes obstetricans), with reference to Dr. P. Kammerer's Publications* \*. By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

HAVING recently felt bound to recommend caution in accepting the results of the experiments conducted in Vienna by Dr. Kammerer within the last fifteen years, and to express

\* 1. "Experimentelle Veränderung der Fortpflanzungstätigkeit bei Geburtshelferkröte (*Alytes obstetricans*) und Laubfrosch (*Hyla arborea*)," Arch. f. Entwicklmech. xxii. 1906, p. 48.

2. "Vererbung erzwungener Fortpflanzungsanpassungen.—Die Nach-